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November 15, 1962

WASHINGTON EMBASSY REPORTS RE EVENTS IN CUBA

November 7: The speeches by Rodriguez and Alexeyev on the 45th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution seemed to treat Castro more as a past prophet than as a future leader of Cuba.

November 12: Castro and Mikoyan are not getting along well. Their smiles seem forced. Nevertheless, the press stresses that there is no Cuban-Soviet rift. Some foreign observers think that Mikoyan will remain until the end of shipments of military materiel and technicians. There are rumors that nearly 4,000 technicians have left since the beginning of the month. The whole atmosphere, for Cubans, foreign communists and Westerners alike, is one of doubt, suspense and concern.

There is nothing to the New York Times story regarding the Cuban desire for co-existence. Official propaganda takes the opposite line. If Castro is unhappy with the Soviet Union, he is more likely to go toward Communist China than toward the West.

November 13: Mikoyan, at Habana University gave no indication of any disagreement between Cuba and the Soviet Union. The students did not show any enthusiasm for him. In general, the students are the only group in the population who show any vitality. The rest of the people remain apathetic.

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